

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A molding die comprising:

[[a)] a pair of molding die members ~~for forming~~ that forms a molding cavity that molds molded products; [[and]]

[[b)] a holding member ~~for holding~~ that holds therein the pair of molding die members slidably, and

a supply port that supplies a pressure-transfer medium located on one of an inner surface of the holding member and an outer surface of the pair of molding die members;

wherein the inner surface of the holding member and the outer surface of the pair of molding die members are separated by a clearance; and

wherein [[a]] when the pressure-transfer medium is supplied to [[a]] the clearance between the pair of molding die members and the holding member through the supply port, ~~makes the pair of~~ molding die members [[to]] can be slid [[and]] or held in the holding member while the pair of molding die members and the holding member are [[on the]] in a non-contact state.

2. (Currently Amended) The molding die of claim 1, wherein the clearance between the pair of molding die members and the holding member is within a range of 0.1 – 100 μm .

3. (Original) The molding die of claim 1, wherein the pressure-transfer medium is gas or liquid.

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4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The molding die of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of supply ports provided on the holding member for supplying pressure-transfer medium which supply the pressure-transfer [[media]] medium to the clearance between the pair of molding die members and the holding member.

7. (Currently Amended) The molding die of claim 6, wherein the plurality of supply ports provided on the holding member for pressure-transfer medium are arranged in an axial direction of the molding die, and further are arranged in a plane perpendicular to the axial direction.

8. (Currently Amended) The molding die of claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~
 [[a]] wherein the supply port is provided on one of the pair of molding die members for supplying the pressure-transfer medium that supplies the pressure-transfer [[media]] medium to the clearance between the pair of molding die members and the holding member;

a supply path for the pressure-transfer medium connected to the supply port ~~for the pressure-transfer medium;~~ and

a fixed throttle provided on the supply path ~~for the pressure-transfer medium~~ for regulating a flow of the pressure-transfer medium, ~~where T represents a glass transition point of a material for the molding die.~~

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9. (Currently Amended) The molding die of claim 1, ~~further comprising a wherein~~ the supply port is provided on one of the pair of molding die members for supplying the ~~pressure-transfer medium that supplies~~ the pressure-transfer ~~[[media]]~~ medium to the clearance between the pair of molding die members and the holding member,

wherein a circumference of the supply port ~~for the pressure-transfer medium~~ is recessed.

10. (Currently Amended) The molding die of claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~

~~[[a]]~~ wherein the supply port is provided on the holding member for supplying the ~~pressure-transfer medium that supplies~~ the pressure-transfer ~~[[media]]~~ medium to the clearance between the pair of molding die members and the holding member;

a supply path for the pressure-transfer medium connected to the supply port ~~for the pressure-transfer medium~~; and

an automatic adjusting throttle provided on the supply path ~~for the pressure-transfer medium~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The molding die of claim 1, wherein ~~the molding die member or the holding member has~~ the supply port is a porous member through which the pressure-transfer medium is supplied to the clearance.

12. (Currently Amended) The molding die of claim 1, wherein at least one of the pair ~~of molding die~~ ~~[[member]]~~ members or the holding member is made of ceramic material.

13. (Original) The molding die of claim 1, wherein the molded products are optical elements.

14. (Currently Amended) A molding apparatus comprising:

[[a)] a molding die comprising

[[1)] a pair of molding die members [[which]] that form a molding cavity for molding molded products, [[and]]

[[2)] a holding member that holds therein the pair of molding die [[member]] members slidably, an inner surface of the holding member and an outer surface of the pair of molding die members being separated by a clearance; and

a supply port that supplies a pressure-transfer medium located on one of the inner surface of the holding member and the outer surface of the pair of molding die members,
and

[[b)] a pressure-transfer medium supplying means for supplying the pressure-transfer medium to [[a)] the clearance between the molding die member and the holding member,

wherein when the pressure-transfer medium is supplied to the clearance between the pair of molding die members and the holding member through the supply port [[makes]] the pair of molding die members [[to]] can be slid [[and]] or held in the holding member while the pair of molding die members and the holding member are [[on the]] in a non-contact state.

15. (Currently Amended) The molding apparatus of claim 14, wherein the clearance between the pair of molding die members and the holding member is within a range of 0.1 – 100 μm .

16. (Original) The molding apparatus of claim 14, wherein the pressure-transfer medium is gas or liquid.

17. (Currently Amended) The molding apparatus of claim 14, wherein the pressure-transfer medium supplying means supplies the pressure-transfer medium ~~is supplied~~ to the clearance under a pressure of 200 kPa – 2000 kPa.

18. (Currently Amended) The molding apparatus of claim 14, wherein the pressure-transfer medium supplying means supplies the pressure-transfer medium ~~is supplied~~ to the clearance at temperature of 100 - 1000°C.

19. (Currently Amended) The molding apparatus of claim 14, wherein the pressure-transfer medium supplying means supplies the pressure-transfer medium ~~is supplied~~ to the clearance at temperature of (T - 200°C) to (T + 200°C), where T represents [[a]] glass transition point of a material for the molded products.

20. (Currently Amended) The molding apparatus of claim 14, further comprising a plurality of supply ports provided on the holding member for supplying ~~pressure-transfer medium which supply the pressure-transfer~~ [[media]] medium to the clearance between the pair of molding die members and the holding member.

21. (Currently Amended) The molding apparatus of claim [[14]] 20, wherein the plurality of supply ports provided on the holding member for ~~pressure-transfer medium~~ are

arranged in an axial direction of the molding die, and ~~further~~ are further arranged in a plane perpendicular to the axial direction.

22. (Currently Amended) The molding apparatus of claim 20, further comprising a plurality of a pressure adjustment mechanisms for adjusting pressures, wherein the pressure adjustment mechanisms control a distance of the clearance between at least one of the pair of molding die members and the holding member ~~is controlled~~ by regulating pressure of the pressure-transfer medium supplied from the plurality of plural pressure-transfer medium supply ports.

23. (Currently Amended) The molding apparatus of claim 22, wherein the pressure adjustment mechanisms control a shifted eccentricity of at least one of the pair of molding die members ~~is controlled~~ by regulating pressure of the pressure-transfer medium supplied from the plurality of plural pressure-transfer medium supply ports.

24. (Currently Amended) The molding apparatus of claim 22, wherein the pressure adjustment mechanisms control a tilted eccentricity of at least one of the pair of molding die members ~~is controlled~~ by regulating pressure of the pressure-transfer medium supplied from the plurality of plural pressure-transfer medium supply ports.

25. (Original) The molding apparatus of claim 14, wherein the molded products are optical elements.

26. (New) A molding apparatus comprising:

a molding die comprising

a molding means for forming a molding cavity that molds molded products;

a holding means for holding therein the molding means slidably; and

a supplying means for supplying a pressure-transfer medium located on one of an inner surface of the holding means and an outer surface of the molding means, and

an outer pressure medium transfer means for transferring the pressure-transfer medium to the supply port,

wherein the inner surface of the holding means and the outer surface of the molding means are separated by a clearance; and

wherein when the pressure-transfer medium is supplied to the clearance between the molding means and the holding means through the supplying means the molding means can be slid or held in the holding means while the molding means and the holding means are in a non-contact state.

27. (New) The molding apparatus of claim 26, wherein the outer pressure medium transfer means is a compressor.

28. (New) A molding die comprising:

a molding means for forming a molding cavity that molds molded products;

a holding means for holding therein the molding means slidably; and

a supplying means for supplying a pressure-transfer medium located on one of an inner surface of the holding means and an outer surface of the molding means;

wherein the inner surface of the holding means and the outer surface of the molding means are separated by a clearance; and

wherein when the pressure-transfer medium is supplied to the clearance between the molding means and the holding means through the supplying means, the molding means can be slid or held in the holding means while the molding means and the holding means are in a non-contact state.

29. (New) A molding die comprising:

a molding cavity formed by a pair of molding die members which is held slidably in a holding member; and

a supply port that supplies a pressure-transfer medium located on one of an inner surface of the holding member and an outer surface of the pair of molding die members;

wherein the inner surface of the holding member and the outer surface of the pair of molding die members are separated by a clearance; and

wherein when the pressure-transfer medium is supplied to the clearance between the pair of molding die members and the holding member through the supply port, the pair of molding die members can be slid or held in the holding member while the pair of molding die members and the holding member are in a non-contact state.

30. (New) A molding apparatus comprising:

a molding die comprising

a molding cavity formed by a pair of molding die members which is held slidably in a holding member, an inner surface of the holding member and an outer surface of the pair of molding die members being separated by a clearance; and

a supply port that supplies a pressure-transfer medium located on one of the inner surface of the holding member and the outer surface of the pair of molding die members, and

a pressure-transfer medium supplying means for supplying the pressure-transfer medium to the clearance between the molding die member and the holding member,

wherein the pressure-transfer medium is supplied to the clearance between the pair of molding die members and the holding member through the supply port the pair of molding die members can be slid or held in the holding member while the pair of molding die members and the holding member are in a non-contact state.